## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hideki MASUBUCHI, et al.

Appln. No.: (TBA)

Group Art Unit: (TBA)

Confirmation No.: (TBA)

Examiner: (TBA)

Filed: July 10, 2001

For:

A STEEL CORD FOR THE REINFORCEMENT

OF A RUBBER ARTICLE AND TIRES

#### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

### **BOX PCT**

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

### IN THE CLAIMS:

# Please enter the following amended claim:

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(Amended) A steel cord for the reinforcement of a rubber article according to claim 2, wherein a distance between mutual steel filaments in each layer of the strand is not more than 0.014 mm.